

MONTHLY/SEASONAL OUTLOOK

Eastern Area



Updated: February 24, 2015

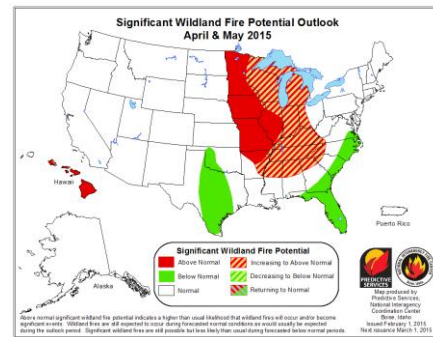
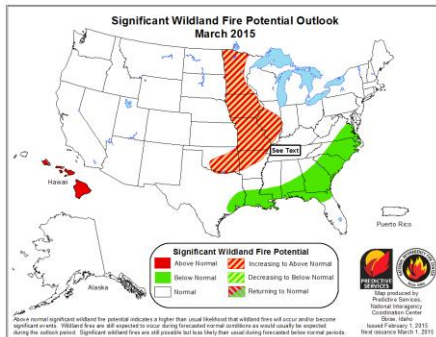
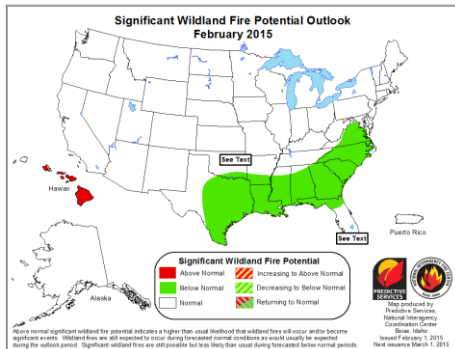
Valid: February - May 2015

Fire Potential Outlooks

February 2015

March 2015

April - May 2015



Predictive Services Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks

Temperature



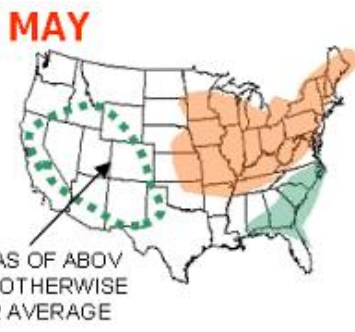
Below Normal =



Above Normal =



Precipitation

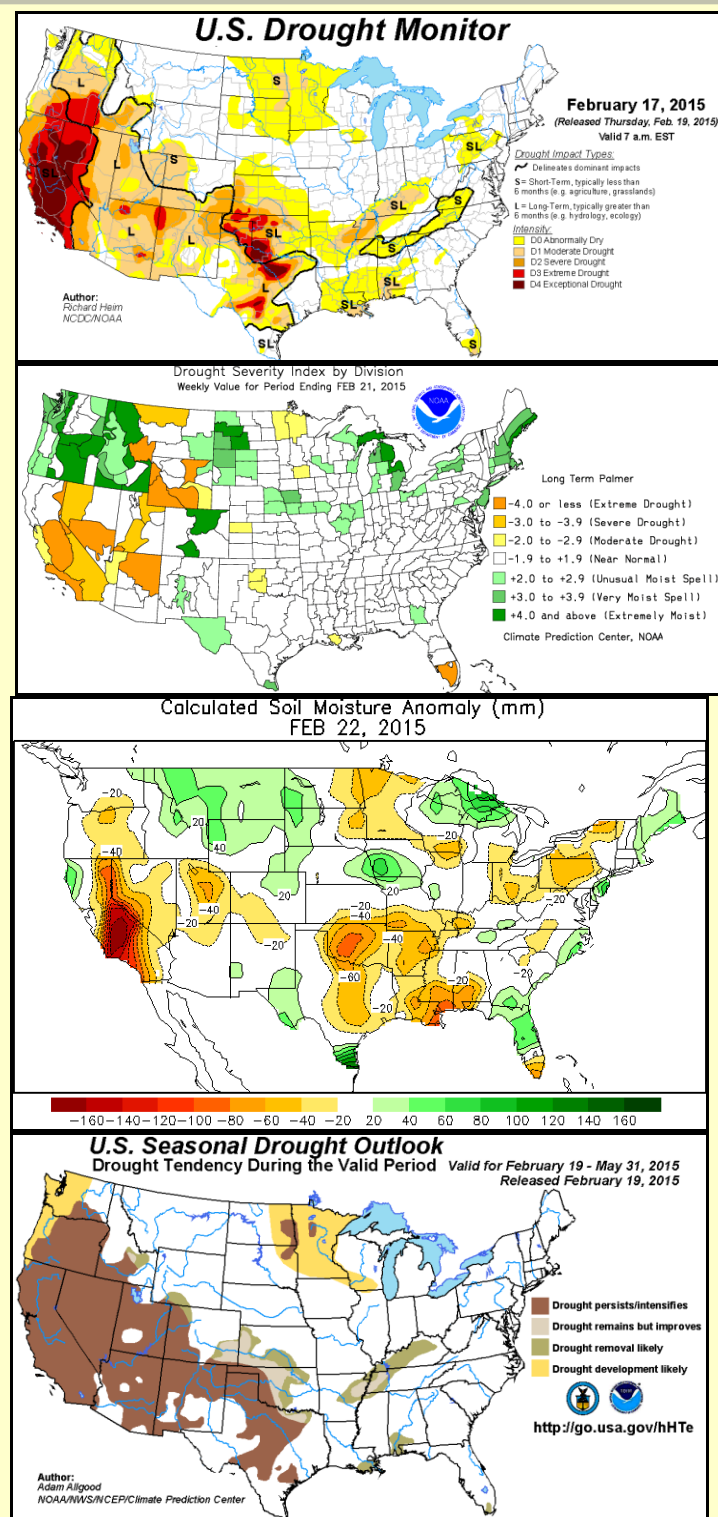


Below Normal =



Above Normal =





Discussion

- Past Weather and Drought:** 30 to 90 day soil moisture and precipitation anomalies were below normal levels through much of the fall into the first half of the winter season of 2014-15 across portions of the Upper and Mid-Mississippi Valley. The driest portion of the Eastern Area through the first half of the winter was indicated across the northwestern third of Minnesota as well as portions of the Mid-Mississippi Valley at the end of January 2015.
- Weather and Climate Outlook:** Colder than normal conditions are forecast across the majority of the Eastern Area into February before transitioning to above normal temperature trends March into April of 2015. Drier than normal conditions overall are expected across the Great Lakes, Mid-Mississippi Valley eastward into Ohio February into May of 2015. This will likely lead to above normal fire potential for these areas through the late winter and spring fire season of 2015.
- Fuel Conditions:** 100 and 1000 hour fuel moistures dropped below the 90th percentile across portions of Minnesota as well as parts of Missouri through the first half of the winter of 2014-15. Otherwise the majority of RAWs across the Eastern Area indicated 100 and 1000 hour fuel moistures above the 90th percentile.
- Fire Season Timing:** The spring fire season may begin earlier than normal across portions of the Great Lakes, Big Rivers, and Ohio if the forecasted drier than normal trends come to fruition this spring and warmer than normal conditions develop March into April of 2015.
- Area Discussion:** An earlier and above normal 2015 spring fire season is expected across the Great Lakes and Mid-Mississippi Valley eastward into Ohio.



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